

A Frontrunner of the Twin Transition – City of Catanzaro Selected for The Intelligent Cities Challenge 2023-25 Edition

City of Catanzaro. July 2023.. This week, the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) - an initiative spearheaded by the European Commission (DG GROW and EISMEA) - announced that City of Catanzaro has been selected to join its esteemed support programme. The city will now start its two year journey to create an impactful strategy and develop innovative solutions that will place the city at the forefront of the green and digital twin transition through Local Green Deals.

The ICC programme will help cities to harness the power of cutting-edge technologies, while improving their economic competitiveness, social resilience and the European citizens' quality of life. They will receive high quality, tailored guidance, expert support, access to advisory and city peer networks, and capacity building tools, to drive their city closer towards the twin transition.

Dana Eleftheriadou, Head Cities and Proximity Team, DG GROW at the European Commission, says *"Cities are the beating heart of Europe's economy. The new phase of the Intelligent Cities Challenge offers cities with the prime opportunity to put themselves on the map as a European Intelligent City and to turn their sustainability and technological ambitions into action, especially by launching their own Local Green Deals across city departments and with the local businesses. These will put your cities firmly on the path towards making the European Green Deal and the Green Deal Industrial Plan a reality, while scaling-up Europe's net-zero industry."*

Catanzaro has long been committed to implementing an important sustainable urban development strategy, based on innovation, social inclusion through urban and social regeneration interventions, and centered on the "smart city" approach. He has developed an important integrated planning capacity on the themes of intelligent urban development, with extensive use of EU funding.

In this perspective it has participated in the ICC 1st Phase Program and has joined the new "Intelligent City Challenge" Program to implement its urban innovation programs, with particular attention to the issues of e-government, sustainable urban mobility, ecological transition , with the involvement of a large institutional, social and economic partnership that will share the ICC objectives and contribute to the realization of the projects. The City of Catanzaro is enthusiastic about joining the Smart Cities of Europe network, to exchange good practices and grow together with a view to promoting sustainable, intelligent and inclusive urban models.

The previous ICC edition (2020-2022) saw €1.9 billion earmarked for ICC cities' actions and €247 million in public funding from EU,national and regional sources was leveraged which helped facilitate 336 actions planned by the 136 Core cities. This new edition will build on the success of the previous ICC programme (2020-22) and Digital Cities Challenge (2018-20) and provide an extensive high-profile network, solid methodology framework and strong support mechanisms.

For the latest developments and more information, visit intelligentcitieschallenge.eu.

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Press contacts:

Intelligent Cities Challenge Helpdesk

helpdesk_icc@technopolis-group.com

Dott. Antonio De Marco

antonio.demarco@comune.catanzaro.it

Tel. 0039 0961881086



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